

Patent Application 09/658,432
Docket No. P13433US2

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-9 are currently pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1 and 9 are independent claims. Claims 4-5, 10-11 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicants.

Claim rejections – 35 USC §103

In paragraph 2 of his report, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,603,763 (hereinafter called Koshino). Please note that claims 1, 6-9 have been amended for better pointing out the essence of the invention.

Independent claim 1 has been amended for including the limitations of claim 4, which is allowed. For these reasons, claim 1 is believed to be patentable as well. Furthermore, it can be appreciated that claims 2-3 and 6-8, which depend directly or ultimately from claim 1, while adding further limitations thereto, are believed patentable for the same reasons provided in support of claim 1. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In paragraph 4 of his report the Examiner rejected claim 9 as being unpatentable over Koshino in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,404,754 (hereinafter called Lim).

Claim 9 is an independent claim and has been amended for including the limitations of claim 10. In paragraph 6 of his report the Examiner objected to claim 10 for being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, the limitations of claim 10 have been added to claim 9. For

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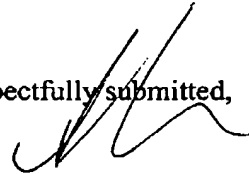
these reasons, Applicants submit that independent claim 9 is patentable. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the abovementioned remarks, Applicants respectfully request favourable action for all pending claims.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-3, 6-9 are thus in condition for favourable action. If the Examiner would find that the further prosecution of the application would be facilitated by a telephone interview, the Examiner is hereby invited to call the undersigned at (514) 345-7900 ext. 2596.

Respectfully submitted,



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